



**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN, et al.  
Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND  
COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT  
FOR A COMMUNICATION  
FRAMEWORK IN A SUPPLY  
MANAGEMENT ARCHITECTURE  
Appl. No.: 09/816,048  
Filing Date: 03/23/2001  
Examiner: Florian M. Zeender  
Art Unit: 3627

**RECEIVED**  
APR 30 2004  
**GROUP 3600**

AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated October 29, 2003, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: